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The above description of illustrated embodiments of the invention, including what is described in the abstract, is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise forms disclosed. While specific embodiments of, and examples for, the invention are described herein for illustrative purposes, various equivalent modifications are possible within the scope of the invention, as those skilled in the relevant art will recognize. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that inasmuch as the interface identifier is generated as the ISUP layer, it is independent of the physical media through which the channel is created. Thus, the teachings of the present invention are readily implemented in wired or wireless communications systems.

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#### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims as indicated:

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1. (Amended) A network comprising:

A<sup>2</sup>  
a first node having a first point code, and a first switching element to selectively couple the first node to other nodes through one or more communication channels; and C.7, 1-20

a second node having a second point code, and a second switching element to establish a first communication channel with the first node, the second node to identify the first communication channel with an identifier that includes, at least, the first point code and the second point code. C.7, 31 - C.8, 67

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A<sup>3</sup>  
4. (Amended) The network of claim 2, wherein the second node further comprises a third point code.